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## Contributed Articles.

On Important Apilarian Subjects.

### How to Improve Your Bees Cheaply.

BY JAS. F. WOOD.

This article is intended to help those to requeen their colonies that have either old or undesirable queens, and I trust that many of my brother bee-keepers who cannot afford to buy queens from good breeders will try to discard the queens from all their cross colonies, as well as those that begin to fail from old age. What is more annoying than to extract honey, or in any way handle, a cross colony? I believe all queens from such colonies should be superseded for better stock. I will give a method that I used successfully in an apiary of over 50 colonies of black bees.

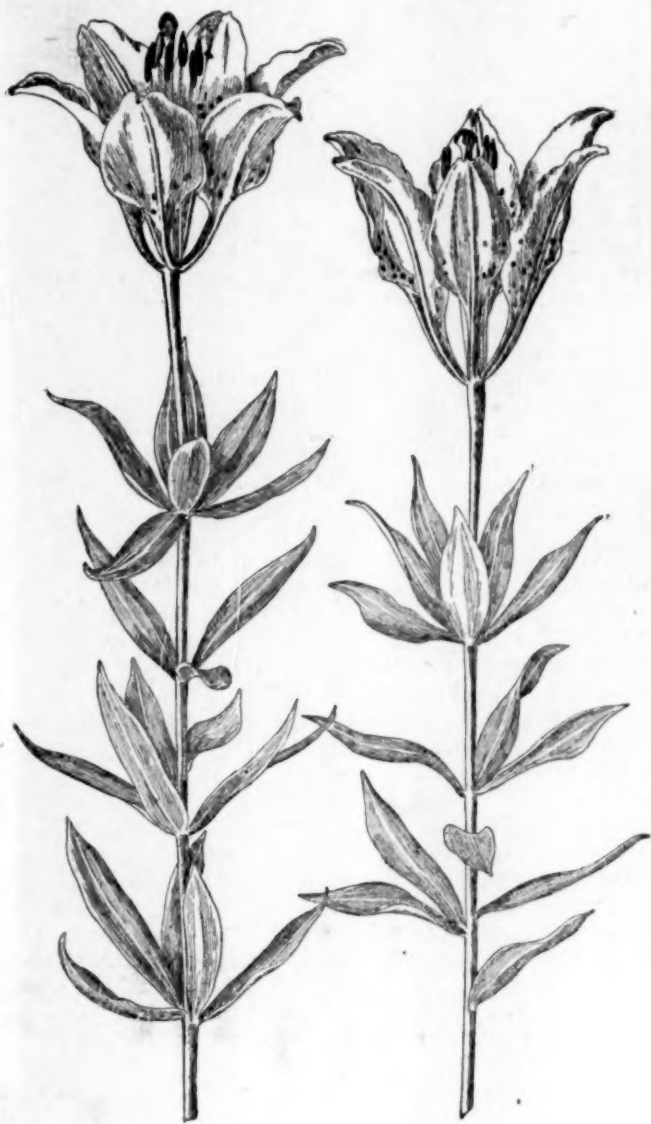
I selected two of the strongest colonies that I had, and started as many cells as I wished, which I think was about 20 in each hive (20 is all any colony should rear at the utmost limit). These cells were reared from the most desirable colony I had; that is, the one that gave the largest yield of honey, and at the same time were gentle. Here is the point for you to look out for: Be sure to select for a breeder a colony that is above the average as honey-gatherers. You can easily designate your most industrious colonies, even if there is no great flow of honey.

I have not space in this article to tell you how to start cells, but I think others have told this; if not, I think any of the standard books give at least one good method. I will say briefly this: Stimulate your cell-building colonies by feeding sugar syrup every evening until the cells are sealed, and feed liberally. Mark the date that the cells are sealed, and be sure to make no mistake.

Now suppose the cells are all sealed, say Aug. 1; on Aug. 6 you should remove all your undesirable queens, and Aug. 7, late in the afternoon, insert a cell in each of the queenless colonies. Now in four or five days examine for cells, and if you find the cell has hatched, and no other cells started, you doubtless have a young queen, when the colony will need no further examination until the young queen is 12 days old. Examine all colonies that you gave cells now, and if you find eggs in abundance in the center of the hive, you may rest assured that colony is all right. Such will be the case with nearly every colony.

Some will doubtless lose their queens when they fly to meet the drones. These queenless colonies should now be supplied with a laying queen. (You can keep the best ones that you remove, caged in full colonies that have queens, and use them to supply what few are missing.)

I have said nothing about controlling the drones while



Wood Lily—(*Lilium Philadelphicum*).

(Copyrighted by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.)

"Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow;  
They toil not, neither do they spin;  
And yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory  
Was not arrayed like one of these."

the young queens are mating, which will take place from the third to the eighth day after they hatch. If you have the Alley traps, put them on all but your best colonies, *including the one that you reared the queens from*. There is but little use trying to control the mating of your queens if your neighbors keep bees. However, in my case I allowed only Italian drones to fly, and I had only two colonies that had desirable drones, and I had only *one* queen that produced black bees, out of the 40 odd queens that were reared by the method above.

I practiced this method 13 years ago, just after buckwheat bloom. I Italianized the whole apiary of over 40 colonies of blacks with only a half-dozen colonies of Italians, and the colonies were not in the least injured by being deprived of a laying queen for 10 days after the last flow of honey in that locality.

Do not breed from a colony of hybrids! If you have a good Italian queen, I would use her for a queen mother, but rather than use a hybrid I should select pure black stock, no matter how desirable the hybrid colony. You cannot depend upon the young queens to produce either good workers or gentle bees.

North Prescott, Mass.



### What Dr. Miller Thinks.

**PLANTING FOR HONEY ALONE.**—I admire the courage of R. S. Russell who stands up, on page 456, for planting for honey alone. For one, I shall be glad to be a disciple, if reasonable proof be given of the correctness of his position. Friend Russell, I think others can be got in the ranks with but little coaxing, if you will point them to a successful case of planting for honey alone. Who has succeeded? What did he plant? What can I plant from which I can get enough honey to pay a moderate rent on the land? I'm ready to have the ground occupied, and have tried it more than once, but was regretfully driven to join in the crime of saying, "It does not pay to plant for honey alone." Let's have the answers, Friend Russell, and I'm ready to recant.

**VIPER'S BUGLOSS.**—What the word "bugloss" imports seems in doubt on page 459. The Standard Dictionary gives "bous, ox; and glossa, tongue."

**BEES WORKING ON MORE THAN ONE KIND OF PLANT.**—On page 465, W. A. Ditson says he has seen bees go from one kind of flower to another on the same trip. He is undoubtedly correct, but I think I never saw anything of the kind only at a time of scarcity. I half suspect they never work on more than one kind when gathering pollen.

**HONOR TO WHOM HONOR.**—Some of the most vicious work of which I ever knew was the attempt to deprive Father Langstroth of the credit properly due him, but I'm sure he would himself protest against giving him credit to which he is not entitled. Twice within a week I've seen credited to him the maxim, "Keep all colonies strong." Look at the last page of his book, and you will find he quotes from Germany Oettl's golden rule: Keep your colonies strong.

**SWEET CLOVER.**—There is so much strong prejudice against sweet clover—a plant as to the future of which I have much hope—that I regret to see anything in the American Bee Journal to help that prejudice. And when I see on page 456, "Sweet clover is a sort of weed," quoted from so good an authority as the editor of Gleanings, I cannot forbear asking Bro. Abbott whether there is not some mistake. For any one reading the item on page 456, is likely to think that the editor of Gleanings has a poor opinion of sweet clover, which is very far from correct. Look at page 462 of the American

Bee Journal, and you will see an editorial quoted from Gleanings that speaks in very high praise of sweet clover. In that editorial you will find these words: "Some people call it a weed; but it is an exceedingly *valuable* weed." I wonder if that isn't the sentence to which you refer, Bro. Abbott. You see it makes quite a different impression from the quotation given on page 456.

**DOES FLAX YIELD HONEY?**—From the testimony offered, it seems that flax is a good honey-plant, but, like many another, at some times and in some places bees get nothing from it.

**CANADA THISTLE.**—So we're told on page 459 that it's "no more the Canada thistle than it is the United States thistle." Maybe it isn't called "Canada" because it originated there, but because it is common there, just as Kentucky bluegrass is found all over. I think I never heard of a place in the United States where bee-keepers looked hopefully to the blooming of Canada thistle, or where there was enough of it so that they knew anything of honey from it, but Canadian bee-keepers talk of it as a common honey-plant. To say, as is said in Canadian Beedom, "It yields honey of an excellent quality," is as much as to say that the speaker has been across the northern border.

**BURNT SUGAR.**—On page 465, Bert Lownes thinks burnt sugar poisoned bees in the latter part of May. Burnt sugar has long been considered poison for bees if used as winter food, but, like some other things, as honey-dew, I supposed it was all right if bees were flying dally. If it poisons when bees are flying, that's another reason for being careful about it, and Mr. Lownes will confer a favor by giving any positive information on the subject.

**DRAINING CAPPINGS.**—On page 454, Chas. Dadant tells about draining and then washing cappings. When I used to extract some, I left the cappings to drain in the cellar, and as all bee-keepers know, the honey became thin there, and the cappings would have little or nothing on them to wash off. Perhaps this is not so good a plan, and I'd like to know what Mr. Dadant thinks of it.

**A GRAND SOAKING.**—Northern Illinois has been suffering from drouth, but the middle of July brought a change, and crops are saved. After some good showers previously, a regular soaking came July 18. Marengo, Ill.



### The California Honey Crop for 1895.

BY "RAMBLER."

EDITOR AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL—

*My Dear Sir:*—I note in your issue of July 4, Bro. Brodbeck's signal of distress in relation to the depressed condition of our honey market, and wherein he charges all the evils of low prices to certain writers who have more enthusiasm than discretion about the capabilities of this State. Inasmuch as Bro. B. has in a private letter charged me with being one of the parties who has wrought such havoc, I feel a desire to answer him in a public way in order that we may better understand the situation.

In the first place, about the only utterances that have been made in the bee-journals in relation to a large honey crop in California, was in the early spring, when bountiful rains had fallen, and the flowers were in such profusion as to give a brilliant appearance to the landscape; then Prof. Cook, Dr. Gallup, myself, and perhaps another one or two, in the abundance of our enthusiasm amongst so much beauty, said that the prospect was excellent for a large honey crop. Now, it seems to me that our industry stands upon a very slim basis if we cannot remark up the prospects ahead without ruining the industry. We may be unduly enthusiastic, but our friend



should remember that "one swallow does not make a summer," or one prophecy make a honey crop.

The honey crop of California is now nearly all harvested, and the yield is variously estimated by those competent to judge, all the way from Mr. Brodbeck's one-quarter crop up to half a crop, as compared with the yield in 1893. In this (San Bernardino) county, and, in fact, all along this tier of counties 60 miles back from the coast, the yield is equal to, if not greater, than in 1893. Mr. D. A. Wheeler, of Riverside, from about 900 colonies gets nearly 50 tons; H. E. Wilder, with 120 colonies, gets 12 tons; M. Segars, of San Bernardino, from about 300 colonies gets 20 tons; these apiaries are making up the loss of 1893, and are doing much better upon honey-production than in that year. These are not the big yields that we would like to report, but they help to make up a very passable honey crop, and inasmuch as the Editor sanctions the idea that Mr. Brodbeck knows the true condition of things, while it is implied that the enthusiasts—Prof. Cook, Dr. Gallup, and others—are rather unreliable, I have given the addresses of the above producers in order that my statements may be verified.

I do not wish to convey the idea that I consider Mr. Brodbeck in the least unreliable, for I fully endorse all that the Editor says in relation to his reliability, but there is a chance that he may lean to the dark side of the question as strongly as us enthusiasts (so-called) have to the bright side.

All along the coast the fogs and the army-worm have no doubt greatly reduced the yield, so that the general yield may be about half the 1893 yield; and dealers—notwithstanding Mr. Brodbeck's assertion to the contrary—understand this, and in the San Francisco quotations in last Gleanings, by Mr. Schacht, a dealer, quotes an average crop. And as another encouraging straw I would mention the fact that Mr. Mendleson, of Ventura, has recently sold his amber honey for five cents per pound. I shall claim that enthusiastic utterances in relation to prospects, or even the fact that we have a large yield, cuts but a small figure in the market price of honey.

California may be fortunately located for good average yields, and good quality of honey, but it is an unfortunate feature that its product comes so early in the season—before the Eastern markets are established. Local dealers take advantage of the fact, and depress the price to the lowest limit; the honey that is first sold in this State comes largely from those who are obliged to sell. And why are they obliged to sell? It is from the simple fact that they are unable to pay for their supplies at the opening of the season; the honey-dealer very considerably supplies them, and takes a lien upon the honey for security, and when the honey is harvested, he piles it up in his warehouse at whatever price he is disposed to name. This class of bee-keepers never attend bee-keepers' conventions, and are seldom subscribers to the bee-periodicals, and this class are the real cause of low prices early in the season.

Every bee-keeper in California may set himself to decrying the honey crop, still it would make no difference in the advance of the price of honey. Witness the fact that the season of 1894 was probably as bad as Southern California will ever experience; still, as beautiful comb honey as ever graced the table of an epicure was sold in Selma, in car lots, for only 8 cents per pound, and extracted honey at a correspondingly low figure.

Now what is the remedy for all of this lamentable state of affairs? It seems to me that there is but one resource, and that is, better organization. The subject has been in the dreams of our leading bee-keepers for years; has been talked about, written about, and at present seems to have received a reinvigorating by Bro. Hutchinson's timely articles in the Review.

The great need in California is an organization that will

enable every bee-keeper to hold his honey until markets are established. An organization can supply impecunious bee-keepers with supplies, and take a lien upon the honey as well as can an unscrupulous dealer, and banks will ease up the present needs of the producer as soon as the honey is placed in the warehouse; then the organization could secure for him the highest market price.

In order to place our honey where it is needed, or where it will command the best price, we need National as well as State organization; some claim that co-operative stores in various portions of the country would be of the highest utility to the honey-producer. As organized at present, our County, State, and National societies well merit the name of "mutual admiration societies." Our age is intensely practical, and there will not be a general attendance to these organizations unless the producer can see some tangible evidences of benefit. I venture to say that there is not a live society on the continent to-day, speaking in a helpful and practical sense.

I have spent some of my enthusiasm upon our State organization, so also has Prof. Cook and others, but here in the midst of counties where there are hundreds of bee-keepers, barely half a hundred take an interest.

That our Eastern brethren will in the coming North American convention set a dollar and sense example for us lesser organizations, is the earnest wish of the

Bloomington, Calif., July 17.

RAMBLER.



### The Five-Banded or Very Yellow Bees.

BY S. E. MILLER.

I was somewhat surprised at the article on page 378, by John McArthur, entitled, "What constitutes an Italian queen, and a purely-mated Italian queen?" And as I consider the article very misleading, I think it should not pass unchallenged.

Mr. McArthur starts out with an attack upon editors of bee-papers for condemning the so-called golden or 5-banded bees, and then continues in a strain that would lead the beginner to think that these yellow bees are the pure and original Italians. In reply to Mr. McArthur's article, I will quote paragraphs from the same, and then try to answer them.

"If those who are so keen to place barriers in the way of progress, could rear and maintain the yellow race as easily as they can the hybrids they call pure Italians (because their worker progeny show three yellow bands), the yellow race would at once be accepted as the coming bee."

I would say, it seems altogether too easy for the rank and file of bee-keepers (as McArthur terms them) to produce these yellow bees. In the last few years they have sprung up, and are advertised in nearly all parts of the United States and Canada, and apparently there is no trouble, or at least very little, in producing bees as yellow as can be desired; but the verdict of a majority of bee-keepers, who have given them an impartial trial, indicates that the most of these yellow bees are as worthless as they are yellow.

To claim that those who have reported adversely on the yellow bees are prejudiced, will hardly stand, for certainly those who have invested money in them have been led to expect wonderful results from them; have given them extra care and attention, and wished to see them prove themselves superior to the more homely 3-banded or leather-colored Italians.

Not until compelled to, from actual experience, have most bee-keepers been willing to admit that the yellow bees were inferior to the darker Italians.

Mr. McArthur's claim, that we should pay closer attention to the selection of drones for mating, is certainly correct so far, but when he makes the statement that these drones should be perfectly yellow, if we wish to produce pure Italians, I fear he has gone a step too far, and cannot verify his state-

ment by calling on the best informed bee-keepers in the land for their experiences and opinions. □ □ □ □ □

□ And now comes Mr. McArthur's broadest and most sweeping claims for the yellow bees, "A pure Italian (queen) will produce yellow drones—as yellow as the mother;" and, further on he says, "A purely-mated Italian queen will produce uniformly-marked workers, yellow to the tip, completely so on the under side of the abdomen."

I would now like to ask Mr. McArthur whether he ever imported a queen direct from Italy, that produced such drones or workers, or whether he knows any one that has imported a queen that would produce such. From my experience, and from all that I have ever read on the subject, I have been led to believe that queens imported from Italy produced workers having three rather dull-colored yellow bands, or sometimes called "leather-colored," while the drones of such imported queens are a dark brown color, showing little if any yellow.

If I am correct in this (and I believe nearly every enlightened bee-keeper in the land will bear me out in the assertion), then where do pure Italians come from? From Italy, certainly! But if Mr. McArthur is correct, they must come from somewhere else. Likely from York State, where, in the hands of the originator, I have no doubt they are a valuable strain, but since being scattered over the country, and falling into the hands of careless breeders, who have bred for color without regard to other essential qualities, they have deteriorated until they are a valuable strain to bee-fanciers only.

□ If any one will take the trouble to look over back numbers of the various bee-papers, and read all that Mr. G. M. Doolittle has written on this subject in the last year or two, I think he will learn where this strain (which Mr. McArthur claims to be the only pure Italians) originated. He will also learn that Mr. Doolittle never made any broad claims for the yellow bees, and never asked bee-keepers to purchase them, but as they nearly all called for the yellowest queens he had, he was willing to accommodate his customers; but that the so-called golden or 5-banded bees are inferior to the 3-banded bees in most parts of the country, can no longer be doubted by those who read the reports concerning them. I would refer the reader to page 490 of *Gleanings* for June 15, 1895.

In his second paragraph Mr. McArthur says: "If the editors of some of our papers keep up the crusade as they have done in the past, we may bid farewell to the advancement of bee-culture on this line."

If he had put it in this way it would be nearer correct: If editors and others that know the facts in the case, will permit the rank and file of bee-keepers to go on in their mad and foolish race for yellow, instead of honey-producing qualities in bees, we will soon have a strain of bees that will not be worth their keeping to the practical bee-keeper, but to the bee-fancier they will be ornamental, indeed.

Bluffton, Mo.

P. S.—Can't the admirers of golden bees get up a bee-fancier's association, where they could have full swing, and not be bothered by those that keep bees for the honey they gather? S. E. M.



### Double vs. Single Walled Hives—Wintering.

□ □ □ □ □ BY C. E. MEAD. □ □ □ □ □

When I read the answers to the question about double-walled hives, and saw how many were not in favor of them, I said, "Well, that is the poorest guessing I ever saw in the 'Old Reliable!'" Those in the Southern States who have not been compelled to use a cellar or a double-walled hive to winter safely, are excusable; but those in the North have not tried them in a "searching" winter like the one just past.

Mr. Abbott says that bees do not freeze, but in the long-

continued cold-spells they cannot stir to get the honey, and starve—freeze to death—or "come dead" just the same. Had they been packed in a double-walled hive, they would have been warm enough to move about, and would neither starve nor freeze.

For about eight years I have wintered some colonies in two-story hives, on from four to six frames in each hive, according to the size of the colony. I prepare them in September. For five frames,  $7\frac{1}{4}$  inch space in the center between the two division-boards is right; 10-frame hives are best. I place the division-boards equidistant from the sides, with  $7\frac{1}{4}$  inch space in the center; screw a  $1\frac{1}{4}$ -inch slim screw into the center of each division-board at the back of the hive; drive two 2-inch wire-nails in each board from the front of the hive, but not clear in, and let the heads stick out  $\frac{3}{8}$ , so you can draw them out easily in the spring. Place this body on a bottom-board, and pack solid between division-boards and the side of the hive. With soft clay lute the top of this hive all around. Have a  $\frac{3}{8}$  or  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch board to lay on top of the frames in the top story. Now put the five lightest frames in the packed hive, with the bees; place the prepared second body on the first hive, and cover the center space, and pack between division-boards and sides as you did the first one. Lute the joints of the top of this hive. Now put the five heaviest frames in this hive, with adhering bees. Put on another body, or two supers; put the  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch board over the frames, and then put in 8 inches of packing. Tack a few old newspapers to the backs of the hives, and then screw on a board that will cover from top to bottom.

Now comes the part which, if neglected, will cause a total failure from dampness, even through the division-boards and the  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch cover. Have the cover project enough so the rain and snow will not blow in, and place  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch strips under it. Let your hive face the south, and they will be all right in the spring. I wintered a 3-frame nucleus on 8 frames in this way—4 in each hive—and they were booming this spring. But the most satisfaction comes through my double-walled hives. How it pleased me to see the first hive I opened in May. One colony that was wintered in a two-story 10-frame hive did not stir enough all winter to let me know whether they were dead or not—10 frames of brood and honey, and more honey than they had in the fall; plenty of drones and queen-cell cups started, and the 20 frames covered with bees. My other double-walled hives, with 10 frame hives at the bottom, and two inches of packing on top, and then the bottom of a nucleus colony in an 8-frame hive, with an opening at right angles with the lower hive, came through in splendid condition. These nuclei had a 2 inch opening 4 inches from the entrance. The bees are placed on the left side of the tier, and the entrance on the right corner.

One of these nuclei I consider as remarkable. It had more bees and honey than in the fall—8 frames solid full of honey and brood, and only dandelion and scanty fruit-bloom to get it from. The lightest nucleus had only three frames with brood in, and I could not see that they had eaten 5 pounds of honey. These nuclei had at least 6 inches of packing over them, and the heat of the big colony about  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches below them makes it so warm that it is necessary to give them as much room and honey as I do. In a bad season they will breed up and starve before it is warm enough to open the hives to see if they need stores. I am not as sure of wintering these small nuclei packed over the strong colonies as I am the big ones.

As I have not lost but one colony in 10 years, in these double hives (and that came through the winter all right, but for some reason the queen died, and she was only two years old), I united them with the nucleus above them. One-half of the bees in the single-walled hives died, and the other half do not compare in strength with the nuclei wintered above



the strong colonies. And the amount of honey consumed is enough more to pay for the double hives in two seasons. I have had to draw young bees from these strong colonies to get the colonies in single-walled hives up to a paying strength.

This way of wintering nuclei is new. But my losses in finding out how, were considerable. And when an astute bee-master, like Mr. Taylor, makes the same mistake as I did, perhaps it is well to state my failures to keep others off of the rocks of failure. I thought I had a sure thing when I tried a long hive with two strong colonies in each end, and a nucleus in the center, with wire-cloth division-boards between colonies. They were very uneasy; in the spring all were dead. I tried double wire division-boards the next winter, and extra strong colonies at the ends, so the bees could not well communicate. One colony survived. I am positive the draft, though slight, chilled and killed my bees. I thought of my present plan, and it is a success.

Now comes Mr. Doolittle, and says double hives are better to winter in the cellar. Well, you can safely follow anything Doolittle says. "Ven he talks, he says somdings efery dimes."

Then comes "North Carolina," and says it pays there, as bees leave the supers in the cold nights of spring, which will apply to most Southern States.

I would like all who have used double and single walled, or packed, hives, to report per cent. of loss in each kind the past winter; and see "where we are at."

Chicago, Ill.

## Southern Department.

CONDUCTED BY

DR. J. P. H. BROWN, AUGUSTA, GA.

(Please send all questions relating to bee-keeping in the South direct to Dr. Brown, and he will answer in this department.—ED.)

### After-Swarms—Water for Bees—Laying Workers.

1. Bees are still swarming. I had a swarm the other day that got ahead of me. When they settled I went to the old colony to cut out the queen-cells, and I found no cells and no eggs. The brood was all sealed, and a good deal of it was drone-brood. Give me your opinion about it.

2. Is the water that is carried into the hive used in rearing the young bees, or is it for the old ones?

3. Is a laying worker-bee fed the royal jelly through a mistake, or is it through a desire to lay?

When I put on a box and want to know if the bees have gone to work in it, I place my ear close to the box, and if they are not at work in it I can hear them scratching and clawing.

S. R. P., Georgia.

ANSWER.—The swarm that issued was an after-swarm or "cast." Very often after the issue of 2nd, 3rd, or 4th swarms, the hive is left in just the condition you describe. Swarms of this kind are no good, and had better be put back or united.

2. It is used, it is supposed, for diluting the honey and in preparing the food for the young bees.

3. Most likely through a strong desire to lay and perpetuate the existence of the colony. This is the conclusion I have arrived at from my observations, and I have watched hundreds of colonies that contained them.

### Should Honey be Extracted from the Brood-Chamber?

I have 25 colonies of bees, and they have 25 to 35 pounds of honey each. Some of the outside frames are sealed from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  down. This honey is in the brood-chamber. Would you extract it or not? Please give me your advice.

A. P. L., South Carolina.

ANSWER.—Whether I would extract or not would depend upon the extent of the fall pasturage. If this was very limited, I would not extract; for July and August are dull months in your section—very little honey is gathered during

these months—and if the fall crop is short they will need all they have for winter. But in those locations where there is an abundance of fall flowers, the aster especially, there would be little risk in extracting the honey from all frames that contain no brood.

Some years ago, during the extracting furor, the bee-keeping solons advised all frames containing sealed honey to be whirled in the extractor, regardless of the stage of development of the brood. They told us the whirling did not hurt the brood—that which was partially thrown out of the cell the bees would pull back in position. I followed the crowd, but I soon jumped out of the ranks, for I found that the bulk of the brood was injured by extracting the honey. So now I never extract from frames that contain any uncapped brood; and I am cautious about extracting from those that contain capped brood. If this course is pursued by the beginner, he will avoid the danger of extracting too closely, and his colonies will not be weakened.

### The Castor Bean.

I have five acres to castor beans. Is the plant a honey-producer? I notice wart-like excrescences on the stem and leaf stalks, which exude a liquid that seems to be eagerly sought by flies, ants, etc.

J. A. M., Seay, Oklahoma.

ANSWER.—I do not think it secretes any honey that is acceptable to the hive-bee. There are many plants that secrete a kind of nectar that is eagerly sought by flies and some species of wild bees, while hive-bees will not touch it. The castor bean, Spanish bayonet (*Yucca filamentosa*), enomomus, and some others, are plants of this character.

### Bees Did Only Reasonably Well.

Owing to more engagements than I have been able to keep up with, I have neglected my correspondence with the American Bee Journal, but I love it "all the same," and read it as of yore.

Bees have done only reasonably well in East Tennessee this season. The cold weather in poplar bloom continued for two weeks, and the honey crop from that source was small. Basswood was fair, and my surplus so far is nearly all from it. Sourwood is beginning to bloom, but owing to the very dry weather I do not expect a large yield from it. My crop, taken to date, is 1,100 pounds of basswood and 500 pounds of poplar honey. I have some 200 pounds of basswood honey yet to take.

H. F. COLEMAN.

Sneedville, Tenn., July 4.

### Rolling in the Honey—Hybrid Bees Best.

Bees in this section were on the verge of starvation until June 20, but they are rolling in the honey. I have 24 colonies that are extra strong.

I have from week to week noticed in the American Bee Journal that the writers praise the 3 and 5 banded bees to the skies, as being the best honey-gatherers; but I want to say right here, that experience has convinced me beyond all doubt, that a high grade of hybrids are the best honey-gatherers in existence. I have two queens that cost me \$6.00 each, and two 5-banded queens that cost \$5.00 each, and all four of these queens are not worth 20 cents. My brown Leghorn chickens will lay just about as many eggs as these queens.

Fellowsville, W. Va., July 8.

B. T. STONE.

**The "10 Weeks for 10 Cents" Offer** to new subscribers was withdrawn July 15, as advertised. To any received after that date, 10 back numbers of this year's Bee Journal have been sent, and we will renew the offer of "10 cents for 10 weeks" (or 10 back numbers) so long as our stock of back numbers of 1895 holds out. So, to any one sending 10 cents, we will mail 10 different back numbers, all to be since Jan. 1, 1895. Ten of such numbers are just as good for getting a fair idea of what the Bee Journal is, as would be 10 future numbers. The 10 back numbers will all be of different dates, but will not be consecutive numbers.

See "Bee-Keeper's Guide" offer on page 496.

## Questions AND Answers.

CONDUCTED BY

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.

[Questions may be mailed to the Bee Journal, or to Dr. Miller direct.]

### Why Did the Swarm Leave?

I had a very large after-swarm of Italian bees to come out June 20; I hived them in a Langstroth hive, and moved the hive about 40 feet from where I hived them. They hung out of the hive that evening, and went in at night. Some worked the next day, but not many, and part hung out. The next evening, about 4 o'clock, they came out and left for parts unknown. I looked into the hive, and saw they had made three pieces of comb about as long as my hand. What caused them to leave?

H. G.

Hickman, Tenn., June 24.

ANSWER.—I cannot say for sure, but bees would act just about as you describe if you set the hive in too hot a place, or give them too little ventilation. It's a pretty good plan for at least a week, to set the hive up on blocks an inch or more.

### Importing Bumble-Bees into Australia.

Please tell me through the American Bee Journal when (at what date) there was a successful importation of bumble-bees made into Australia; also from where, by whom, and to what part of Australia they were taken. Do you know for a certainty that there is clover seed now successfully raised there? For certain well-defined reasons I do not believe that there was ever any bumble-bees introduced into Australia, and would like to have definite answers to the above questions.

W. S. F.

ANSWER.—Now are you going to smash another of our idols? I don't know a thing about it for sure, and yet I have an indistinct recollection of reading something about the particulars. But I wouldn't like to make my "affidav" that there ever were any particulars. Brethren, the question is before you. If any one knows the correct answer, let him please arise and recite it.

### A Queenless Colony.

One of my colonies has not been working just to suit me since swarming time, and for the last month I notice they have been working in the sections but very little, and only have  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the frames full. To-day I opened the super, and there was very few bees in it. I then examined the brood-chamber, and to my surprise I found that they were filling up the brood-chamber clear to the bottom—every cell throughout the hive was being filled, and not a young bee nor an egg could be found. The colony did not seem to be as strong as they ought to be for this season of the year. I did not see any queen, though she might have been there.

C. S. R.

Metropolis City, Ill., July 9.

ANSWER.—The bees are queenless, and the best thing is to let them alone until the harvest slacks, then kill them and take the honey. If you have any compunctions of conscience about killing bees, give them to some other colony and let that kill them. No young bees have been hatching out, and these are getting pretty aged, so that they'll not live long, anyhow. But when the harvest stops they're likely to be a prey for robbers.

### Rendering Combs into Wax.

What is a good way to render old combs into good, salable wax? Also, what form is best to cool it in, to ship? How should it be packed for shipment? I have no wax-extractor.

BEE GINNER.

ANSWER.—I believe it will pay you to have a sun wax-extractor. If you don't want to buy one you can make one. All that's necessary is to have a box with glass over it, and you'll find that when it stands in the sun the inside of the box will be a very warm place. To melt your combs, put in the box an old dripping-pan having a hole at one corner, or having one corner torn entirely open, and that corner the lowest, with some kind of a dish set under to catch the dropping wax.

It may be a good plan to have some water in this dish for the wax to drop into. But you'll find that with old, black combs a good share of the wax will remain with the slumgum or refuse.

To get the most out, break up the combs into fine pieces when it's frozen and brittle, then soak it in water for a day or longer before rendering. You see the old cocoons in the cells act as sponges to soak up the liquid wax, and you avoid this by having them soaked full of water.

You can also use your dripping-pan without the aid of the sun, even in the winter time. Put it in the oven of your cooking-stove with the corner projecting out, and the vessel on the floor to catch the dropping wax.

It makes little difference what shape it's in for shipment, only it's well to have it in good-sized cakes, and as clean as possible. Put it in a good-sized pan in the oven of your stove at night, the oven not hot enough to burn it; shut the door, and let it stay all night to cool. That slow cooling gives time for all impurities to settle slowly to the bottom, and you can scrape them off when cold.

### "Privet" Is Its Name.

I send a specimen of a bush which grows around my neighbor's lawn, and my bees just swarm on it. Some say it is a medicinal plant. The bush is about 5 feet high, and 6 feet wide. The canes hang down, you know. Is it a good honey-plant? What is it good for medicinally?

Thayer, Ind.

A. R.

ANSWER.—I'm not a good botanist, but it so happens that the plant is one with which I was familiar in boyhood in western Pennsylvania, it being exceedingly scarce in northern Illinois. It was called "privet," but the description of privet in the botany says privet has a white flower, and the privet that I knew, and that you send, is decidedly peculiar in the color of its flowers. It has on the same plant flowers that are purple, and others that are—I really don't know how to describe the color—I should say it was a faded mixture of drab and yellow. The two colors are entirely distinct. I know nothing as to its value, either as to bee-pasturage or medicine, but I doubt whether it is of much value in either direction. To be of much value a honey-plant should be in large quantities, and I don't suppose you'd find enough privet to cover an acre in your whole county.

### Cotton-Weed—Bees for Comb Honey—Sweet Clover.

1. We have quite a profusion of cotton-weed bloom in this vicinity, which opens with basswood, but continues longer, and bees work it freely even while linden is at its maximum. Now my question: Would you consider it beneficial or not, that is, will the honey gathered from it more than counter-balance its qualities of sticking the legs of bees, some of which are carried out by the others?

2. I am just starting an apiary, and am interested in the best bee for that purpose. I have been experimenting since 1890, and have tried to read up well, but am not yet fixed on the above question, although my experiments so far are in favor of the blacks; pure Italian queens mated with black drones next. I never tried but one Carniolan queen, and they held their own very well as honey-gatherers and comb-builders, but were the crossiest ever in my yard, although some of my hybrids serve well in that line. Of course I would prefer a gentle bee to a cross one, if other qualities were equal, but would not lay very heavy stress on temper when honey-gathering qualities are at stake. Now I would like to know which you think preferable for the exclusive production of comb honey.

3. I have been experimenting the last two years with several of the honey-secreting plants, among them sweet clover, which is just coming in bloom from my sowing last spring, and I do not find it as hardy as recommended. What can you tell us of this "fast weed"? This spring I had a plat of Alsike in bloom—the first in this part of the country. It came fully up to my most sanguine expectations.

Alderson, W. Va.

G. H. A.

ANSWERS.—1. It would be hard to give a positive answer to such a question. You see it's more or less a guess as to the value of the bees lost by having their feet stuck up, and it's a guess as to the difference in the value of linden and cotton-weed. My guess would be that if the bees work on something else while linden is in bloom, that they find a gain therein,



and I guess the bees lost by it don't count for such a great deal.

2. You can judge of a man's belief by his acts. I work for comb honey, and I try to keep as near as I can easily to pure Italian stock. But hybrid blood works in, in spite of constant effort.

3. One will tell you that there is nothing harder than sweet clover; that it will grow and flourish in any soil so poor and hard that no kind of grain would live therein. And he's right. Another will tell you that sweet clover is tenderer than oats, wheat or any of the grains. And he's right, too. Drop seed on the hardest soil you like, let it be trodden down by horses, cattle or man, and it will flourish and grow away up big. But it can't stand too much prosperity. I sowed sweet clover with oats one spring, having the ground beautifully prepared. It came up thick, but the next winter it heaved out of the soft ground, and the following spring not a single plant was left. Let your seed be tramped in, in hard ground, and then see if you don't think sweet clover is hardy.

#### Questions by a Beginner.

1. I hived one swarm, and not knowing any better I poured them in at the top of the hive—the second story. They won't go below. They have been in the hive seven days, and have not come out yet. I feared they'd starve, so I fed them every night. What must I do with them?

2. I had a large swarm last Monday; this is Saturday, and the colony has swarmed again. The old colony was hived on May 23. They have never worked in the top story. The bottom part of the hive is only 10x10x10 inches. I did not have any new hives at that time, and used that small box. I thought to transfer them next spring. This seems odd to me, only a beginner.

T. E. R.

Florence, Oreg.

ANSWERS.—1. It's a little hard to say without knowing what your hive is like. If the two stories are just alike, all you need to do is to swap one for the other. If the upper story is small, and communication between the two stories very free, you can leave them just as they are, and when the bees become crowded in the upper story, they will work their way down into the lower. As they fill up next year the brood will in time all be found in the lower story, and the upper story can be removed after it is filled with honey.

2. One thousand cubic inches is all the room they had, whereas they should have double that or more. The queen hadn't room to lay, so they swarmed. Even if there was empty room above, it wasn't to the taste of the queen to occupy it.

#### Questions on Management.

I started last spring to keep bees. I have seven colonies, five of them doing well, but two have not stored any surplus honey, and I got only one small swarm. One has ten extracting-frames filled, and almost 24 one-pound sections filled already.

1. Those two that have done no work in the sections, I took two full frames of the full hive (extracting-frames) and put one in each of those hives. Did I do right?

2. The colony that has stored so much, makes a great noise at night; it does not seem to me to be a contented hum; in fact, they make more noise than all the rest together. I think that one or two swarms left those two hives early in June, but I don't know for certain. Some of the hives have a large amount of bees on the outside of the hive, and still do not swarm. My bees are very cross; my garden is just alongside of the fence where the bees are kept, and it is almost impossible to work a horse in it. I did have to get up in the morning before the bees were out.

3. I would like to Italianize the whole lot, but I do not know how or when to do so.

4. I have a neighbor that has one colony, and the bees have been out all over the hive for the last month. He asked me to go and see if I could tell him what was the matter. When I tried to take off the top of the hive, I found that there were no frames or boxes on top, but the top was full of honey. What can he do with them? Had he better leave them until next year, or take the honey out of the top and put on frames or sections?

W. J. H.

St. Joseph, Pa., July 15.

ANSWERS.—1. It was probably a good thing to take the two frames from the hive likely to be crowded, but it is doubtful if you did any good by giving it to the other colonies so long as they were in no danger of starving.

2. That loud noise at night is all right. The bees are ventilating, and evaporating the nectar they have gathered.

3. You ought to have a good text-book on bees to instruct you about Italianizing and many other things. (See the one offered on page 496.) You can Italianize almost any time when bees are at work. The sum and substance of it is to remove or destroy the old queen and introduce the Italian one.

4. If there is enough room filled with stores below, he may as well take away what there is above, for if everything is entirely full there may be no room for the queen to lay.

#### Time for Rearing a Queen.

Following your instructions for getting increase of colonies, as given on page 410, I would say that everything is apparently working all right.

On July 4 I made the first division, taking the old queen from hive No. 1. On July 14 (10 days after), when I opened hive No. 1 for the second division, I found a large queen in the hive and several cells sealed over. The colony had supplied itself with a queen in 10 days. I, however, went ahead and made the division as originally contemplated. My question is, will this queen produced in 10 days be all right? An old bee-keeper of my acquaintance says not. He says it will be a very poor queen.

My understanding was that the bees did not take an egg over three days old to produce a queen from, under such circumstances as I have detailed above. But in this case, if it takes 16 days to produce a queen from the egg, the bees must have taken a larva to begin operations with that was three days old, or six days from the time the egg was deposited. What do you think about this?

H. P. J.

Ben Avon, Pa.

ANSWER.—If the queen is a nice, large one you needn't worry. I believe it is generally agreed that a larva not more than three days old is all right, the food of all being for the first three days practically the same as that of a queen. After being fed thus for three or four days, the young worker is put upon a less concentrated diet, while the queen goes right on living on the fat of the land. Even if this were not so, are you sure and certain that there might not have been a queen-cell before your intermeddling?

#### A Swarming Experience.

This of all years has added to my experience with bees. Perplexities confront me on most of the avenues in apiculture, therefore this random letter. We have had one of the most rainy seasons I have ever seen in Colorado at this time of year. The last month has been one continual rain, and yet the bees are swarming to death—only 2 colonies out of 50 but what have swarmed from 2 to 4 times. Of these 2 colonies I have placed four 28-section supers on one, and three 24-section supers on the other, which are full of honey.

I have had a number of swarms after having balled the queen, leave the hive. This is a new experience to me. One-fourth of the new swarms have balled and killed the queens. Can you recommend any remedy?

What would you advise to give the new queenless colonies—a frame of brood, new eggs, or give them a queen?

Denver, Colo., July 13.

D. L. T.

ANSWER.—It seems to me you are having a very unusual experience, and I hardly know what to advise. I believe I should try returning some of the swarms, at least, to the hives from which they issued. If they're dissatisfied with their old queen, possibly they might be better satisfied with a new one, although, as a rule, a laying queen will be preferred to one not yet laying. If you don't care to have increase, it might be a good plan to cut out all but one cell on returning. If you don't cut out the cells you may expect them to swarm with the oldest of the young queens.

I think it probable that you gave a frame of brood to each swarm, otherwise I should expect the bees to return to the old hive when the queen was killed, and I'm wondering just a little whether the presence of brood might have anything to do with the killing of queens. If they have brood, they have probably started queen-cells, and will take care of themselves in that respect, but you may expedite matters by giving them a young queen just hatched, or a mature queen-cell. It might be the best thing, especially if you desire increase, to put with the queenless swarm one of the weakest colonies that has swarmed. That would furnish a queen, and also supply emerging brood.

# The American Bee Journal

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George W. York,

Editor.

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## Editorial Budget.

**Prof. Cook** reports having a fine class in entomology at the Chautauqua Assembly now in session at Long Beach, Calif. He also gives general lectures there. On page 461 I gave a full notice of this matter.

**Rev. Emerson T. Abbott**, we regret very much to learn, has been on the sick list for quite a long time, and fears he may have to do less of writing and other work for a time. I hope he may soon regain his former health. I don't think he "enjoys" poor health any more than other people.

**Mr. J. S. Harbison**, the once famous California bee-keeper, read an excellent essay at a farmers' institute held at San Diego last month. Mr. Harbison was at one time the most extensive apiarist on the Pacific Coast, and was the inventor of the Harbison hive, which was used largely in California some years ago.

**Mr. Thos. G. Newman**, ex-editor of the American Bee Journal, intends to be present at the Toronto meeting of North American, Sept. 4, 5 and 6. He will address the convention on "The Past, Present and Future of the Bee-Keepers' Union." It will be a good opportunity for Mr. Newman's many personal friends to meet him again, and talk over old times and scenes.

**The Amalgamation** of the North American and the Bee-Keepers' Union is one of the topics for discussion just now, and should be of particular interest to all, especially to the members of the Union.

While the subject can only be discussed at Toronto, and simply recommendations made looking toward uniting the two organizations (if it is favored by a majority at the Toronto meeting), I have wondered if it might not be well to have an informal ballot on the question before the meeting of the North American, each member of the Union voting either for or against the proposed new arrangement.

On page 493, of this number of the Bee Journal, it will be seen that a majority of those who expressed themselves in the July Review are greatly in favor of uniting the two societies, as are also the editors of the majority of the bee-papers, I believe. To my mind, there is no question about the advantages to be gained by the amalgamation, to all concerned therein.

Suppose all who are members of the Bee-Keepers' Union, and read the Bee Journal, send a postal card at once to this

office, saying whether or not they favor the uniting of the two societies. I will publish them all in symposium style, provided the replies are sufficiently brief. If you wish, you could simply say "Yes" or "No" to this question:

As a member of the Bee-Keepers' Union, are you in favor of making one grand society of the North American Bee-Keepers' Association and the National Bee-Keepers' Union, by uniting them under one management?

Understand, please, that this would not be a final vote—simply an informal ballot—and not at all decisive, or binding upon any one.

Now, if the members of the Bee-Keepers' Union who read the Bee Journal, desire, each can write yes or no to that question on a postal card, sign his or her name, and mail it to this office. If all will do this not later than Aug. 15, we can know something of the feeling of the Union members before the Toronto convention, and at very little expense—only one cent per member.

**Sugar-Honey in Canada.**—Without stirring up any more discussion on the sugar-honey question, I want to reproduce this short editorial found in *Gleanings* for July 1, on the subject:

It comes to us in a sort of roundabout way that there are some bee-keepers in Canada who are producing sugar-honey—that is, a so-called honey produced by feeding sugar to the bees. There is little or none of that thing going on in this country, I believe, and I really hope there never will be. In Canada, some of the prominent bee-keepers are taking vigorous measures to keep such honey out of the market, and I hope they will, for I cannot believe that the average dealer here, or in Canada, will sell it for just what it is, for then it would not sell at all.

Our Canadian friends are endeavoring to get a law passed on this subject, so as to be able to prevent the sale of sugar-honey as floral-honey over there. It is believed they will succeed. They deserve success in this matter, for they have worked hard for it.

**Mr. E. J. Baxter**, of Nauvoo, Ill.—a son-in-law of Mr. Chas. Dadant—gave the Bee Journal office a pleasant call a week ago last Saturday. He reports no honey crop this year, making the third failure in succession.

Referring to the late discussion on the subject of strawberries and bees, in these columns, Mr. Baxter said he agreed fully with Mr. Abbott. He has some 80 acres of strawberries in Iowa, and said that the bees fairly swarmed on them. Also, that a near neighbor in Nauvoo, who had a fine crop of strawberries this year (while others had scarcely any), attributed his success to the presence of Mr. Baxter's bees that worked freely upon them during the blossoming period. It begins to look as if bees do pay quite a little attention to strawberries.

**Liberal Book Premiums** are offered on page 482, for the work of getting new subscribers to the Bee Journal. It is a fine chance to get a complete apicultural library. Think of it—50 cents' worth of books given to the one sending a new subscriber! Remember, please, that only present subscribers to the Bee Journal can take advantage of that offer. The publishers of the Bee Journal believe in making it an object for the old subscribers to push for new readers among their neighbors and friends, hence the generous premium offers to them. It is hoped that all may begin now to work. Sample copies of the Bee Journal free.

**Noms de Plume** are not regarded favorably by the Bee-Keepers' Review. Editor Hutchinson says: "Protected by a *nom de plume*, one will be less guarded in utterance; it is too much like talking about a person who is absent; and things are said that would not be said if he were present." May be so.



**New Subscribers and Premiums.**—Those who send new subscribers will please remember that we do not now offer to give "Bees and Honey" bound in paper to any new subscriber, unless the new subscriber himself or herself sends us the \$1.00 for the Bee Journal a year. In other words, we do not now offer two premiums on one new name.

Another thing: In order to secure any particular premium requiring more than one new subscriber, you need not wait until you have all the required new names, but send them in with the money as fast as you get them, and select your premium when sending the last new subscriber in the club. By so doing the new readers will be getting their copies of the Bee Journal right along, and will not have to wait.

Please remember, also, that we cannot furnish back numbers in regular order since Jan. 1, 1895. We have a few odd back numbers left, which we are disposing of in lots of 10 for 10 cents, as stated on page 476. All new subscriptions will begin with the current number when the names are received.

**Mr. Henry Sutherland**, of Bainbridge, Mich., called at the Bee Journal office last week.

**The A. I. Root Co.** are arranging to nearly double their present capacity for turning out hives and sections. That shows a good deal of faith in the future of bee-keeping. But it doesn't pay to get discouraged in any worthy cause. When things again take a turn for the better, bee-keepers may have to believe as did the cat on a dark night when he fairly flew ahead of the on-coming bootjacks, brickbats, etc.—he concluded everything was coming his way! Be ready for the "good time coming."

**Mr. A. Y. Baldwin**, of DeKalb, Ill., dropped into the Bee Journal office while in Chicago July 24. He reports 130 colonies, and but very little honey on account of the drouth.

## Among the Bee-Papers

Gleaned by Dr. Miller.

### THE NORTH AMERICAN AND THE BEE-KEEPERS' UNION.

Much space is taken up with these topics in the July number of Review. Rev. W. F. Clarke regrets the failure of the North American to be a representative body, and takes a rather gloomy view of its character. He says:

"But the Association has never come up to the ideal formed by its originators, who hoped to make it a Supreme Court or High Parliament of bee-keeping. It has been, for the most part, a mere school for beginners, and there has always been a strongly-marked dislike of thoughtful essays and really able discussions. A good social time and a gossipy talk over the A B C of bee-keeping has been about all the meetings have amounted to. Consequently, many of our foremost bee-keepers have been once and did not care to come again."

James Heddon, although in a different line, takes equally a pessimistic view. Among other things he says:

"Then there is another weak condition with the apicultural organizations we have had. The leaders have not been honey-producers, consequently they were not filled with apicultural enthusiasm. What kind of enthusiasm, then, did bring these men to our conventions, and cause them to seek a leading position at the front? Some desired to be seen. Others had axes to grind. They had some money speculation in view. It has been preachers, professors, publishers, supply-dealers, and a few side-issue bee-keepers, who have been at the front as leaders, because of their energies to get there, and the foolishness of bee-keepers to assist them. Most of these men are impractical, not only as honey-producers, but as workers in any cause. We want practical organizers, instead theoretical ones."

Allen Pringle, in a very clear and sensible article, not only tells what he thinks ought to be done, but tells in detail just how it should be done. He gives bee-keepers credit for honesty and enthusiasm, but thinks there is still enough selfishness left in them to desire a *quid pro quo*. He says:

"It may be taken for granted that a large majority of bee-keepers who would become members and workers in an organization must have substantial inducements held out to them, and be convinced that the thing will pay them in dollars and cents. That fetches them, and that once realized they stay, and for a reason which is all-potent with them."

And to be able to meet the case, money must come from outside the organization in the shape of a grant from the State or General Government. Referring to the success of their societies in Canada, he thinks there should be a following in the same line farther south. He says:

"Our county societies are affiliated with our Provincial (the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association) and would not amount to much of themselves independent of the central society from which they receive an annual money grant and other privileges. Of course the Provincial society receives an annual grant of money from the Provincial government, which is the financial backbone of the society, enabling it to accomplish the splendid work it does; while without that grant the Association could do but little, if it could exist at all. The grant enables the society to hold out to bee-keepers substantial inducements to join and remain members. Each member gets an annual premium of some kind nearly if not quite equal to his membership fee of one dollar. He also gets the annual official report, including the essays in full, and discussions, of the annual meeting."

The important matter of securing the appropriation he thinks can be accomplished in this wise:

"Let the State society get the names of the best and most prominent of these in every constituency, and have them write simultaneously to their respective members during the session when the legislation is being sought. Get as many bee-keepers in every 'riding' as possible to write to their member, urging him to support the bee-keepers' bill. In this way every representative would be reached right from home—from his own constituents; and a general attack of that sort all along the line would have its effect. Even one judicious letter from the constituent would have weight with the member and the more the better to every member. This, as I know by experience, works like magic. Try it; but do not rest with merely advising all and sundry persons through the bee-journals to write their members. If you do, it will not be done. Only a few will write. Having their names, they can be prompted and urged personally, by letter or otherwise, at small expense. Supply them with suggestions, forms and postage—i. e., those who need such looking after. It will pay. It is investing one dollar to get back fifty. Of course this pre-supposes that there are a few, more or less, in every State who will push the work, and who are the men to do it. That much given, it certainly can be done."

Mr. Pringle strongly emphasizes the securing of a grant by saying:

"On this one matter of getting a regular government grant your success in organization depends more, vastly, than on anything else, because there is, I have no doubt, the apicultural material in every State to make a good and useful society."

Regarding the proposed union he says:

"In union there is strength, and if I may give an opinion in the premises, I may say I quite agree with the editor of the Review that a union of the North American and the Bee-Keepers' Union would be a wise move, and to the advantage of both."

Thos. G. Newmnn, General Manager of the Bee-Keepers' Union, deplors the act that separated the two organizations, but gives his disapproval of a return to the union in this emphatic fashion:

"Now, in less than a year, up comes the proposition to marry the two again. The National Association is to marry the Union, as a blushing bride, probably because of her dowery. What child's play and foolishness!"

R. McKnight thinks the social feature of the North American has been its greatest attraction, but this has been re-

stricted by the great distances to be traveled. He is not positive as to how the society can be brought to the highest state of effectiveness, but thinks it might be accomplished thus:

"Amalgamate the North American and the Union; merge the functions of both organizations in one; secure an energetic business man to manage the society's work; have him devote his whole time to build up and extend its influence, and let him be adequately remunerated for his services."

The editor favors the union, enters somewhat into history, and says:

"The Union was organized for a specific purpose, and has done its work well, but a close observer must have noticed that the amount of work that it does lessens as the years go by. At first there was more work than money with which to carry it on, while its manager worked for nothing; now he has a salary (and most richly does he deserve it), yet money is accumulating in the treasury. Some excellent and righteous decisions have been secured, and these have a most quieting effect when shoved under the nose of some would-be persecutor. For this reason the number of expensive lawsuits have decreased. This is a condition that would naturally be expected and is desirable. Now the question arises, would it not be better that some of this money should be used for the good of bee-keeping; rather than that it should go on accumulating year after year? (Perhaps a lowering of the fees would be a better plan.) Of course, those who contributed to the making up of this sum are the ones to say what shall be done with it. By the way, Bro. Newman says this sum was raised for the purpose of defense. This is true, but it is also true that it can be used to prosecute adulterators of honey, to secure legislation—in short, for any purpose thought advisable by the Advisory Board."

An editorial on this subject in *Gleanings* for July 15, reads thus:

"Shall the Bee-Keepers' Union be consolidated with the North American? is a question that is now and should be thoroughly discussed preparatory to the next meeting of the latter at Toronto. It is being advocated by the American Bee Journal and the Bee-Keepers' Review. So far as I at present see, *Gleanings* is also in favor of the scheme. Bro. York thinks it would give us a membership of 500 or 1,000, and a fund from both treasuries of \$800; and then, as he pertinently remarks, "we could petition Congress or State legislatures, in such a way that they would hear and—grant." You are quite right, Bro. York. Of course, the consolidation would not affect the workings of the Union."

## Canadian Beedom.

### Clipping the Wings of Queens.

Although this practice has the support of distinguished names in the ranks of bee-keepers, I have never become a convert to it. If I had no other objection to it, the maiming and disfigurement of the queen would be enough for me. I have a feeling toward a beautiful Italian queen somewhat similar to what I have toward a beautiful woman, and pity a clipped queen as I would a lovely woman whose arm had been amputated. When I visited the Misses Linswik's apiary some years ago, I found that they indulged in the pretty conceit of naming their queens after the fabled goddesses of antiquity, and after the famous historic women of the past. It was swarming-time, and several swarms came off the day I was there. I confess it seemed rather incongruous to see Juno, Venus, Cleopatra, or Joan of Arc tumbling about on the ground and making abortive hops in the vain endeavor to follow their subjects that were flying majestically in the air, while they were grovelling in the dust.

"That's all sentiment," says a very practical bee-keeper, adding probably the question, "What has sentiment to do with bee-keeping?" Not much, I confess, in the case of a great majority of bee-keepers, who would be greatly improved in various ways if they could be cured of this defect. The

same barbaric tendency which leads them to care nothing for the looks of a queen, leads them to despise appearance in everything else. They have no eye to tasteful and beautiful surroundings about their homes, their apiaries are slovenly-looking, and their very dress is devoid of neatness and good taste. Who has not observed this latter feature at bee-conventions? More sentiment added to industry, energy and perseverance, would do these regal qualities no harm.

But this reference to sentiment is only introductory, not to an exhaustive discussion of the subject, but to a brief reference to one feature of it, which was impressed on my mind the other day while studying the subject of the queen's wings. I find that it is so arranged in the physical economy of bee-life that the wings receive constantly a large share of nutrition, and that both nerves and large trachea pass into them. All advocates of clipping queens' wings argue that the wings are not organs of vital importance, and that loss of part or even all of them is of no consequence. Prof. Cook goes farther than this, and on the principle that useless organs are sustained at the expense of the organism, pleads that it is a positive advantage to clip queens' wings. Clippers who have no regard to the figure cut by the queen after the operation, content themselves with removing the larger wing on one side, while those who have some eye to looks and would maim esthetically (?) say this interferes so much with the beauty of the queen that it is best to give her a "symmetrical" appearance by cutting off the greater part of both larger wings.

Now, what I want to come at is the probable, if not certain, effect of this deprivation of an important organ in the mother-bee on the workers, after this process of clipping has been continued for several successive generations. Many generations of bees can be had in a very short time, and unfavorable results may be induced within the brief space of one or two seasons. Though the organs of flight are used but seldom in the case of the queen, degeneracy in her wings will be apt to reproduce itself in the wings of the workers, and it is a fair question, of vital pertinence to the best interests of bee-keeping, whether you can diminish the efficiency of bees' wings without impairing their usefulness?

There is another view of the matter: Even though you were to suppose that no injury would be done to the force of worker-bees, the importance of strong wing-power to the queen herself can hardly be overrated. Nature's great law, which provides for the survival of the fittest, operates in connection with the queen's wedding tour. It is a race, in which, as in the case of courtship with human beings, the female makes a feint of trying to get away from the opposite sex. What is mere hypocrisy with womankind, is reality with the queen-bee. She puts forth all her powers of flight, and it is the strongest, best drone who wins the coveted prize. Lessen her wing-power, and is she not likely to fall into the clutches of some poor, feeble drone whose exercise of the paternal function would be a curse rather than a blessing to the hive? It reminds one of a story concerning Mrs. Anna Dickinson, who, being on a lecture-tour, spoke one evening in a certain place pretty plainly on heredity. Next morning, in the cars, a small burlesque of a man, in a somewhat loud voice, asked if she were not the lady who had lectured the previous evening? On being told she was: "Well, madam," said the little fellow, "I am the proud and happy father of eleven children." Speaking up so that all in the car could hear, Mrs. Dickinson exclaimed: "Just think of such a little, scrumptified speck of humanity as that duplicating himself eleven times!" An inferior drone duplicates himself many thousands of times.

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## Notes AND Comments.

CONDUCTED BY

Rev. Emerson T. Abbott, St. Joseph, Mo.

**Not Quite All.**—"All are starving for better bee-literature."—J. W. TEFFT.

I fear Friend Tefft, like some others, is drawing a little upon his imagination. Apiculture has about as good literature as any industry of the same importance. Then, if there is such a great demand for a better literature, why do not some of the people who know so well the defects of our literature go to work and improve it? The door is wide open, and there is every chance for anyone who thinks he can fill the vacuum to walk in and occupy the building. It is a very easy thing to stand on the outside and say what should be done, but it another thing to do it. Every man who has published a paper knows that it is frequently the man who is in arrears for a year or two who does the most kicking. There is nothing personal in this remark; I only state a general principle.

**How to Know the Wild Flowers.**—Whatever renders Nature more attractive, whatever adds to our store of knowledge of the things with which we daily come in contact, has not been created in vain, and should command our attention. I am led into this train of thought by reading a very interesting and useful book, by Mrs William Starr Dana, entitled, "How to Know the Wild Flowers," published by Chas. Scribner's Sons, New York.

This is not a mere text-book on botany, but an attractive and helpful talk about hundreds of our wild flowers; yet it is so arranged and the matter so classified that, with the book in hand, a thoughtful, studious person will be able to properly name and classify most of the common flowers of field and wood with which he may come in contact. It is filled with illustrations which materially help the reader to understand the descriptive matter. [A sample of them appears on the first page.—EDITOR.]

The text has woven into it many apt quotations and dainty bits of poetry about the flower in question, which relieve one of the feeling that he is reading the dry facts of a text-book. There is a great deal of information about many flowers, which cannot be found in ordinary text-books on botany, and could be obtained from other sources only by a wide course of reading.

A walk in the meadow or forest, with the book for a companion, cannot fail to furnish recreation, as well as information which will be found valuable in the after walks of life.

**Comb-Building by Drones, Is It?**—Do the drones build all the comb? The "new edition" of the A B C of Bee-Culture is just out. On page 352 we read: "In 1880 we offered Friend Doolittle \$100 for a careful going-over of the 'A B C' book, that he might point out its faults, and add such suggestions as his large experience might dictate. . . . In the present edition (1891) we employed him to go all over it again and bring his suggestions up to present date." On page 360 we read: "Recognizing the value of the comments of Mr. Doolittle in previous editions of this work, I have thought best to solicit the aid, in a similar way, of a no less practical and prominent bee-keeper, Dr. C. C. Miller, of Marengo, Ill. Accordingly, in 1888 he reviewed most carefully this entire work, and I here append the comments which he has made."

In the preface to this edition we read: "The present edition, as well as the previous editions, is not only enlarged, and illustrated with many new and beautiful engravings, but it has received a careful and most thorough revision."

Now, bearing the above in mind, let us quote some from

the text. On page 176, article "Honey-Comb," after having shown up some of the errors of Agassiz and Tyndal, and having explained how the wax-scales are secreted, the writer says:

"If a bee is obliged to carry one of these wax-scales but a short distance, *he* takes it in *his* mandibles, and looks as business-like thus as a carpenter with a board on his shoulder. If *he* has to carry it from the bottom of the honey-box, *he* takes it in a way that I cannot explain any better than to say *he* slips it under *his* chin. When thus equipped, you would never know *he* was encumbered with anything, unless it chanced to slip out, when *he* will very dextrously tuck it back with one of *his* fore feet. The little plate of wax is so warm from being kept under *his* chin, as to be quite soft when *he* gets back; and as *he* takes it out and gives it a pinch against the comb where the building is going on, one would think *he* might stop awhile, and put it into place; but not *he*; for off *he* scampers and twists around so many different ways, you might think *he* was not one of the *working* kind at all. Another follows after *him* sooner or later, and gives the wax a pinch, or a little scraping and burnishing with *his* polished mandibles, then another, and so on, and the sum total of all these manœuvres is, that the comb seems almost to grow out of nothing; yet no bee ever makes a cell *himself*, and no comb-building is ever done by any bee while standing in a cell; neither do the bees ever stand in rows and 'excavate,' or anything of the kind."

The italics in the quotation are mine, as I want the reader to get the full force of the statements. Just think of it! Written by my friend, A. I., read twice by Doolittle for errors, and once by Dr. Miller, and then reviewed by our wide-awake and energetic friend, Ernest, and yet the *he's* are building comb! This is funny! Can we now blame the editor of the Cosmopolitan for putting a few *he's* in his head-lines and notes?

Say, Bro. Root, send me a check for \$100, and I will go through the "A B C" and clothe the bees in their proper gender, and I may put different clothes on some other things before I get through. By the way, this "new edition" of the "A B C" is a valuable book, and every bee-keeper should have a copy. I will have more to say about it in the future.

[The publishers of the Bee Journal have the above book for sale, postpaid, for \$1.25; or clubbed with the Bee Journal one year—both together for \$2.00. Better order a copy, if you haven't it already.—EDITOR.]

**Hardly.**—"We need an apicultural station under the national government, and Frank Benton would be a good man to conduct it."—Editorial note in Gleanings.

I cannot agree with you, Friend Root. I hardly think it would be best to put a man in such a position who takes a year to get out a report of a bee-convention. The best thing Mr. Benton can do is to retire from public life. A man who has so many personal grievances against his fellow bee-keepers should disconnect himself entirely from them, and take up some business where he can go it *alone*. Or at least this is my idea.

**Honey as Food and Medicine.**—A new and revised edition of this 32-page pamphlet is now issued. It has 5 blank pages on which to write or paste recipes taken from other sources. It is just what its name indicates, and should be liberally distributed among the people everywhere to create a demand for honey. It contains a number of recipes on the use of honey as food and as medicine, besides much other interesting and valuable information. Prices, postpaid, are: Single copy, 5 cts.; 10 copies 35 cts.; 50 for \$1.50; 100 for \$2.50. Better give them a trial. Send all orders to the Bee Journal office.

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## General Items.

### Ozark Mtn. Region—Hive-Covers.

Shortly after May 3 I started for Arkansas—my former home—and while there I visited the apiary of F. M. Tiner, of Ingram, and found him to be a progressive bee-keeper, with his bees all in fairly good condition. Bees did but little here in the mountains on account of dry weather, until June 15, when we had good rains. That started everything to growing and blooming nicely, and bees are doing better now.

I notice on page 335, Wm. M. Barnum asks, "What improvement can the readers of the American Bee Journal suggest, that will make our hive-covers water proof, lasting and non-crackable?" I can tell how I fix my hive-covers. I just saturate them with oil just before nailing them together, and after nailing I paint the top. I never have had one to leak or crack that was treated in this way. J. R. GIBSON, Redford, Mo.

### May His Like Increase.

It is now nearing the close of my first year's subscription to the American Bee Journal, for which I will say there is not a finer or better bee-paper printed, and I cannot think of doing without it.

C. L. YARBROUGH,

Fair Grove, Mo., July 1.

### Hive-Covers—Potato Blossoms.

I have read in the various bee-papers about leaky hive-covers. I am using some covers that I made over 20 years ago, for my old grandmother one time when I was home. They are made gabbling, out of  $\frac{1}{4}$  boards, edges planed so they fit close together. I cover them the same way as we make what is called aboard a ship, "mast cloths." Take what painters call "grease paint," that is, all old paints that they turn together—all kinds of old paint that has stood for quite awhile. Put a thick coat on the boards, then right away down on over it heavy unbleached sheeting; tack it all around, after drawing it tight, then paint it over and let it dry hard. Give it two coats, and when it becomes dry it will not leak, crack or warp. Those I have, have been painted about every two years, and I am fixing all of my covers, as it is cheaper than tin.

Is there any honey for the bees in potato blossoms? I have about 10 acres of potatoes and one field; the bees seem to be pretty thick on the blossoms, and the others they do not seem to visit at all.

Charlton, Mass.

GEO. L. VINAL.

### Swarming—Further Remarks.

Concerning my remarks on the prevention of swarming on page 874, Dr. Miller wants some figures.

My practical experience began four years ago, when I purchased 4 colonies, a standard book on bee-culture, and other essentials. For the last three years each I have had 4, 7, and 11 colonies, respectively, and all but 2 in dovetail 8-frame chaff hives. During those three seasons I had not a single natural swarm, increasing only by building up from nuclei. My experience for that time prompted me to write as I did; but this season, with a spring count of 23, having purchased 12 additional colonies, I have had, up to this date (July 1), 9 swarms.

Now, why should I get so many swarms this season, and scarcely any surplus, when last season I got a fair surplus and no swarms? The only reason that I can assign is, that I allowed myself to be partially convinced by the writings of others, that I had been tinkering with my bees too much, and consequently did not give them the requisite attention at the proper time. Will some one who knows, tell me why some



bees store surplus in abundance, while others, under exactly the same conditions, think chiefly of swarming? If the difference is not in the surrounding conditions, then it must be in the strain of bees. And this brings me to the substance of my former article, viz.: That with a proper strain of bees, and timely attention concerning their requirements for additional room, swarming can be reduced to a minimum. But it is necessary that we breed from non-swarming colonies, taking into consideration their other essential qualities in order to produce that strain.

And here I find that Dr. Miller in the Query given on page 419, fully agrees with me, that it is possible in time to produce a strain of bees that is not given to swarming at all, although he says that one gradually learns not to expect too much from the title, "How to Prevent Swarming."

JOHN WELCH, JR.  
Frost, Ohio, July 1.

#### Prospects in Northeastern Ohio.

I have been much interested in reading the reports under the heading of "General Items," in the Bee Journal, but I have not seen any reports from this part of the land. The past winter was a very severe one for the bees, as it was so cold, and the cold weather continued so late in the spring. I started in the winter with 21 colonies, and lost 7 during the winter and spring. We have a very poor prospect for a good honey crop this season, although there is a great deal of Alsike clover around here. The weather was very dry until a week ago, and since then we have had several good rains. While it was so dry the bees flew but very little during the middle part of the day. I think the weather was too hot and dry for the clover blossoms to secrete honey, but since the rains the bees are working much better.

There will not be any basswood blossoms for the bees to gather honey from this year, as the severe frosts during the middle of May froze the buds. The trees were budded full, but the frosts were too much for them. I would like to hear from other bee-men whether the blossoms froze in other sections or not.

The severe drouth of last summer, and during a part of the summer before, has been very hard on the white clover, and has thinned it out a good deal. Two years ago at this time, I had taken 30 pounds of honey from one colony, and 25 pounds from another; but nary a pound can I get at this time this year. There is not much interest taken in bee-keeping in this section of the country, as we very seldom have a very large crop of honey. Last year was a very poor season also, on account of the dry weather.

Bees have swarmed but very little so far. I have not had any swarms at all yet, and have heard of but very few from others. I think bee-keepers ought to sow more Alsike clover, and encourage others to sow it. Sow sweet clover along the roadsides, and in other places where it would grow.

Oakfield, O., June 26. J. S. BARR.

#### A Not Encouraging Prophecy.

It is nearly a half century ago that I settled my first swarm of bees, and since that I have learned something by the use of experience and bees, and actual cartloads of bee-books and bee-papers; yet, for all that, I have never figured to place myself in public attention as an apiarian savant. And in speaking of this season I may appear to some like Josh Billings' old hen, that prophesied after she had laid her egg, if I tell what I remarked early last spring about the prospects for the bees this season.

I have a good locality, and a good location, both, and to me there is a wide difference in the meanings of those two words. My bees never seemed to do better in opening out and booming for honey and brood-rearing, than they did during the bloom of spring; but that did not fool me, so I told various persons that I felt sure, from what

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### Honey & Beeswax Market Quotations.

CHICAGO, ILL., June 7.—We have our usual dull season which we look forward to and expect. Honey is entirely forgotten during the months of June, July and August. The market is pretty well cleaned up of all grades of honey, so the prospects are encouraging for the coming season. We are getting 13@14c. for light comb. J. A. L.

CHICAGO, ILL., May 23.—The trade in comb honey is very light at this time of the year—as it is between seasons. Soon we will get the new crop, and it will come on a bare market. Just now what little comb sells brings 14c. for the best grades. Extracted, 5½@7c. All good grades of beeswax, 30c. R. A. B. & Co.

CINCINNATI, O., July 8.—There is a good demand for extracted honey at 4@7c., with a small supply on the market. Demand is fair for choice white comb honey at 12@14c. Beeswax is in good demand at 25@30c. for good to choice yellow. C. F. M. & S.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., July 20.—Old stock of honey well cleaned up. Some new comb on the market. We quote: New comb, No. 1 white, 1-lbs., 14@15c.; No. 2, 12@13c.; No. 1 amber, 12@13c.; No. 2, 10@11c. Extracted, white, 6@6½c.; amber, 5@6c. Beeswax, 22c. C. C. C. & Co.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., June 18.—The new crop of comb honey is arriving slowly, and is in fair demand. No new extracted honey has arrived in this market as yet. We quote: Comb honey, 9@13c. Extracted, 4½@6c. Beeswax is still declining. The adulteration of beeswax has demoralized our market this spring, and has hurt our sales considerably. Price, 25@27c. W. A. S.

NEW YORK, N. Y., July 6.—The market is about bare of comb honey and there is no demand at the present. The market is quiet on extracted. Demand is limited, with plenty of supply arriving to meet the demands and more. We quote: California, 6@6½c.; Southern, choice, 6@6½c. per gallon; common, 5@5½c. per gallon. Beeswax is declining and selling at from 29@30c. at present, but the indications are that the price will decline still further. H. B. & S.

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## GOLDEN ITALIAN

QUEENS by return mail from a breeder obtained of Doolittle, which he selected and tested out of 1000, for his own special use; he said this Queen is a better one than the

## WORLD'S FAIR QUEEN

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## ITALIAN QUEENS

from one of A. I. Root's very best imported breeders. Price of Queens—Untested, 55c.; 6 for \$3.00; 12 for \$5.50. Tested, \$1.00 each; 6 for \$5.00. No disease. Shall run 400 nuclei. Ask for Free Circular, which may be worth dollars to you, if you buy Queens. Safe delivery and satisfaction will be guaranteed in each and every case. **H. G. QUIRIN,** 27D6t BELLEVUE, Huron Co., OHIO.

Mention the American Bee Journal.

I knew, that this would be a very poor season for bees, and we would hear of colonies starving to death in the month of August, and that there would be a heavy loss of bees next winter, followed by a corresponding spring dwindling next spring.

If the present indications continue, the case will be "even so, and more also," before we get to where I drove my stake. Early in June all of my queens stopped laying (almost entirely), and I have not had a swarm this season. A divided colony, full of hatching brood, and some young larvae, even refused to build a queen-cell. By the last of June my colonies were all depleting, and I had to feed some to save their lives, that hadn't a single cell of sealed honey in their hives. I will see them through, however, and stock them with young bees for winter, so I don't expect to lose any. **REV. A. R. SEAMAN,** Connellsville, Pa., July 4.

## Linden or Basswood Bloom.

On page 368 is an item which I wish to criticise, as to the time it takes for a linden or basswood tree to come into flower. Mr. E. R. Root says perhaps 20 years, that is, to yield honey. Now I am sure he has had practical experience, as he saw the plantation he speaks of grow up, but that is only in his district. Now I am sure he will not object if I tell him what the linden will do in the "wild and woolly West." In the winter of 1887 there were cut down several linden trees to open up a country road, but the road failed to be completed, and the result was that it run into brush (as we say), and the stumps of the linden are surrounded by a growth of 7 or 8 feet high, and this growth is well covered with flower-buds at the present time. But that is rather unusual in so short a time. I attribute it to last year's drouth.

Then, again, I have under my charge some trees that were planted in 1889, which are now 3½ inches in circumference 2 feet above the ground; to-day they stand loaded with flower-buds, and will, from all appearance, yield nectar, I think; but I know here in Nebraska we have a rather dry sub-soil, which causes, in most trees, a stubby and firm growth, and such always induce fruitfulness. So if any bee-keeper feels age advancing, and thinks he will never see any returns for his labor, I say take heart, and if you succeed in planting but a single tree, as it grows, and years roll by, I will venture the assertion that you will get a good deal of pleasure in seeing that tree develop itself. **W. H. MORSE,** Florence, Nebr., June 16.

## The Kingbee Wasn't In It.

A few weeks ago one of my bee-keeping friends received word that he was wanted at one of the neighbors to have a swarm of bees, and, as they were not in the business, to bring a hive along with him. So, "armed and equipped as the law directs," he obeyed the summons.

On reaching the place, he found "a state of things." The lady of the house had purchased a bushel of strawberries, and spread them on a table in the yard to dry. The bees in the neighborhood had "caught on" (in spite of Dr. Miller), and my friend "caught on," too, but did not "let on." Nevertheless, the bees were getting away with the berries amazingly lively.

About this time a gentleman stepped up—(I need not tell you that he was an old-timer)—and took a look at the bees; and then, with an air of one who knows all about it, said: "The kingbee ain't there!"

At this point my friend told those who had sent for him, that he could not have the bees unless they clustered, and when they did this, to let him know, and he would come. But he hasn't been sent for the second time.

New Jersey.

SUBSCRIBER.

Bee-Keeper's Guide—see page 496.

## Convention Notices.

**CALIFORNIA.**—The next meeting of the Tulare County Bee-Keepers' Association will be held in Visalia, Aug. 14, 1895. All interested are invited. **J. E. YOUNG, Sec.** Visalia, Calif.

**TEXAS.**—The Texas State Bee-Keepers' Association will meet at Greenville, Tex., Aug. 21 and 22, 1895. Good premiums are offered for best exhibits. All are invited to attend. **W. H. WHITE, Sec.** Deport, Tex.

**ILLINOIS.**—The annual meeting of the Northern Illinois Bee-Keepers' Association will be held at the residence of O. Taylor, in Harlem, Ill., on Tuesday, Aug. 20, 1895. All are cordially invited. **B. KENNEDY, Sec.** New Milford, Ill.

**TENNESSEE.**—The next annual meeting of the East Tennessee Bee-Keepers' Association will be held at Mulberry Gap, Tenn., on August 16, 1895. The members are urged to attend and all bee-keepers are invited to be present. **H. F. COLEMAN, Sec.** Sneedville, Tenn.

**KANSAS.**—There will be a meeting of the Southeastern Kansas Bee-Keepers' Association in Fort Scott, Kans., on Sept. 19, 1895. All are cordially invited to come and have a good time. There will be a full program. **J. C. BALCH, Sec.** Bronson, Kans.

**WISCONSIN.**—The Southwestern Wisconsin Bee-Keepers' Association will hold its next meeting at Platteville, Wis., Oct. 8 and 9, 1895. "Come, every one." Don't get discouraged if we haven't got a crop of honey. We will have a good time at Platteville, just the same. Bring your wives and daughters with you. Many interesting subjects will be discussed. **M. M. RICE, Sec.** Boscobel, Wis.

## North American Bee-Keepers' Association

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**VICE-PRES.**—L. D. Stilson..... York, Nebr  
**SECRETARY.**—W. Z. Hutchinson... Flint, Mich.  
**TREASURER.**—J. T. Calvert..... Medina, Ohio.

## National Bee-Keepers' Union.

**PRESIDENT.**—Hon. R. L. Taylor.. Lapeer, Mich.  
**GEN'L MANAGER.**—T. G. Newman, Chicago, Ill.  
147 South Western Avenue.

## Wants or Exchanges.

This department is only for your "Wants" or bona-fide "Exchanges," and such will be inserted here at 10 cents a line for each time, when specially ordered into this department. Exchanges for cash or for price-lists, or notices offering articles for sale, will not be inserted here—such belong in the regular advertising columns, at regular rates.

**TO EXCHANGE.**—Lossing's "Civil War in America" (3 vols.), for Honey. Address, **J. C. YORK, Alliance, Ohio.**

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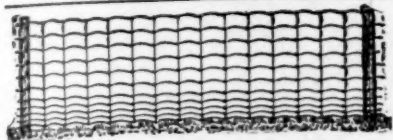
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Untested Italian Queens, by return mail, 75c; Tested, \$1.00; Select Tested, \$1.50.  
Nuclei, by express—per Frame, 75c.

Address, **C. E. MEAD,**  
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## Question-Box.

In the multitude of counsellors there is safety.—Prov. 11-14.

### Wintering Bees on 8 Frames of Honey.

**Query 982.**—1. Will a colony winter well on 8 frames if the 8 frames are filled with honey with no empty cells?

2. If empty cells are desirable, what proportion of the 8 combs should be empty, and where should the empty cells be located?—Vt.

**Prof. A. J. Cook**—1. Yes. 2. The center cells are the empty ones, in general.

**Rev. E. T. Abbott**—2. I prefer some empty cells in the center frames, at the bottom.

**H. D. Cutting**—1. I don't know. 2. With present knowledge, I prefer about 1/2 of each.

**B. Taylor**—1. I do not know. I never tried it. 2. One-third, in the center of the brood-nest.

**Chas. Dadant & Son**—1 and 2. No, the combs should be at least half empty, at the lower part.

**W. R. Graham**—1. I think not. 2. About the amount of one frame, and that in the center.

**Mrs. L. Harrison**—1. I think they would, and consume honey fast enough, to have empty cells.

**Dr. J. P. H. Brown**—1. In my latitude they would. 2. The empty cells should be near the bottom of the combs.

**R. L. Taylor**—1. I would not like to risk it out-doors in this latitude (Michigan). 2. From 1/2 to 1/4. The lower front center.

**C. H. Dibbern**—1. I prefer empty comb equal to about two frames. 2. Empty cells should be located near the center of the hive.

**P. H. Elwood**—1 and 2. Yes, if the frames are filled early in the fall, the bees will empty enough cells before severe weather comes.

**Rev. M. Mahin**—1. No! 2. That will depend upon the size of the colony. There should be enough empty comb for the bees to cluster in.

**G. M. Doolittle**—1. I prefer some empty cells at the center of the bottom of combs. 2. To the amount of one frame in the center at the bottom.

**Wm. M. Barnum**—1. Yes. 2. The empty cell is generally present to a greater or less extent, but I have never considered it particularly desirable.

**W. G. Larrabee**—1 and 2.—I never tried to winter a colony on 8 frames of solid honey, but I should prefer to have about 1/2 of the cells empty, and those in or near the cluster.

**Dr. C. C. Miller**—1. I don't know, but think they would do pretty well. 2. I don't believe I'd care for more than the amount of one comb, and I'd want that at the lower part of three central combs.

**Allen Pringle**—1. That depends. If they have a 2-inch rim under the hive and a smaller space above the frames, and are in a repository of 40° to 45°, they will be all right so far as wintering is concerned; but if these conditions are not present, they will probably be all

wrong. I do not believe in having the whole of the frames perfectly full, for more than one reason. 2. The empty cells should be in the center towards the bottom, and be about 1/4 of the whole space.

**E. France**—1 and 2. Not out-of-doors. I winter bees out-of-doors on 8 full Langstroth combs, with 8 more below the honey, part full or empty. The feed should be on top; the empty combs below the honey.

**J. E. Pond**—1. Yes, they have so done with myself. 2. I don't know that any empty cells are desirable, but they should be on the out sides of the brood-chamber, if used at all, and a free passage over the tops of the frames should be given.

**Eugene Secor**—1. I don't understand the purport of this question. An unnatural condition is described. There are always empty cells in a normal colony in the fall. And bees do winter well in just such a hive. 2. I never pay any attention to such matters.

**Jas. A. Stone**—1. Yes, they will soon empty some of the cells. The condition spoken of is almost impossible, unless by feeding, as the honey-flow does not often end with a severe cold snap, and then the bees empty cells enough—if that is desirable. 2. I do not know. I want to see what the others say.

**G. W. Demaree**—1 and 2. A hive solid full of sealed honey right at the time hard winter sets in, would be a dangerous condition of things for the bees. Naturally, such a state of affairs would never occur in my apiary, as the last "hatch" of brood is sure to have more or less open cells in the center combs.

**Mrs. J. N. Heater**—1. Yes, sir. 2. No empty cells will be needed until spring. If you have an early honey-flow, as from basswood or clover, provide the queen with room by inserting at least two empty combs in the center of the brood-chamber. But if you have to depend upon a fall flow, leave all the honey in the hive.

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Select tested queen, previous season's rearing. 4.00  
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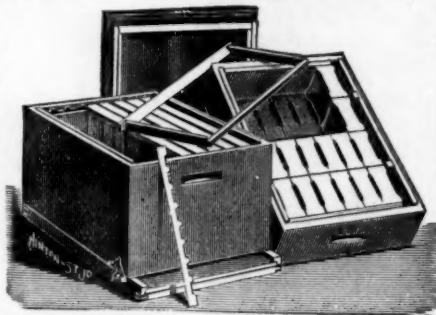
10 lbs. Heavy or Medium Brood Fdn. \$3.50  
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